

## Refugee Resource Group: 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

The Refugee Resource Group is a diocesan ministry dedicated to provide assistance and comfort to refugees and organizations supporting them. This year the ministry continued its role in providing educational material to parishes and their parishioners. We introduced a PowerPoint educational series (three 45-minute presentations) about refugees and the immigration process. The presentation was made available through the RRG's webpage on the diocese's website (under Social Justice). Postcards announcing the new webpage were sent to every parish *and* we offered a team of presenters to assist parishes with conducting Adult Forums.

The ministry worked with several local organizations to acquire information or to provide inventory fulfillment and financial support to help refugees who resettled in Central Pennsylvania, which included Church World Services, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Catholic Charities Harrisburg, and Pa. Immigrant and Refugee Women's Network. We consulted with Episcopal Migration Ministries to have RRG listed on the Our Partners webpage of Partners in Welcome, which was a great way to connect with other people working on behalf of refugees and immigrants. Members of the ministry collected many household items by conducting neighborhood rummage sales and delivered everything to Church World Service in Lancaster.

We explored purchasing highway billboard advertisements featuring "*Jesus was a refugee*", but the significant cost neither justified the return in investment or the placement of billboards in highly visible settings.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerry Garber, Acting Chair